

REMARKS:**Status**

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 24, and 29 are independent claims.

Drawings

Figures 1- 5 are objected to as not including "Prior Art" as a legend. Applicants amend the Figures to overcome the objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants amend claim 10 where it is believed appropriate to overcome the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §101

Claims 24-30 are rejected under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants amend claims 24-30 where it is believed appropriate to overcome the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102, 103

Claims 1-8, 10-11 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Winter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,085,739 B1). Claims 9, 12-20, 26-27 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winter et al. in view of Shimko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,139,730 B1). Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winter et al. in view of Shimko et al., further in view of Official Notice.

Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 7,085,739 B1 lists as one of the inventors Mr. Francis Shields, who is also a listed inventor of the present application. Applicants amend the claims of priority of the present application to claim priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/421,713 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,085,739) and include the following:

(1) amendment of the specification to include the reference to U.S. Patent

Application No. 09/421,713 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,085,739);

(2) a surcharge under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(t); and

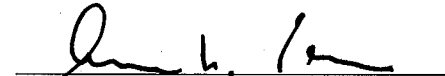
(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(2) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional.

Applicants believe that the rejection based on the Winter reference is overcome and that the claims as presented are patentable over the cited art.

REMARKS:

If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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